

Mississippi River: Restoration and Protection

Mississippi River Forum

John Linc Stine
Commissioner

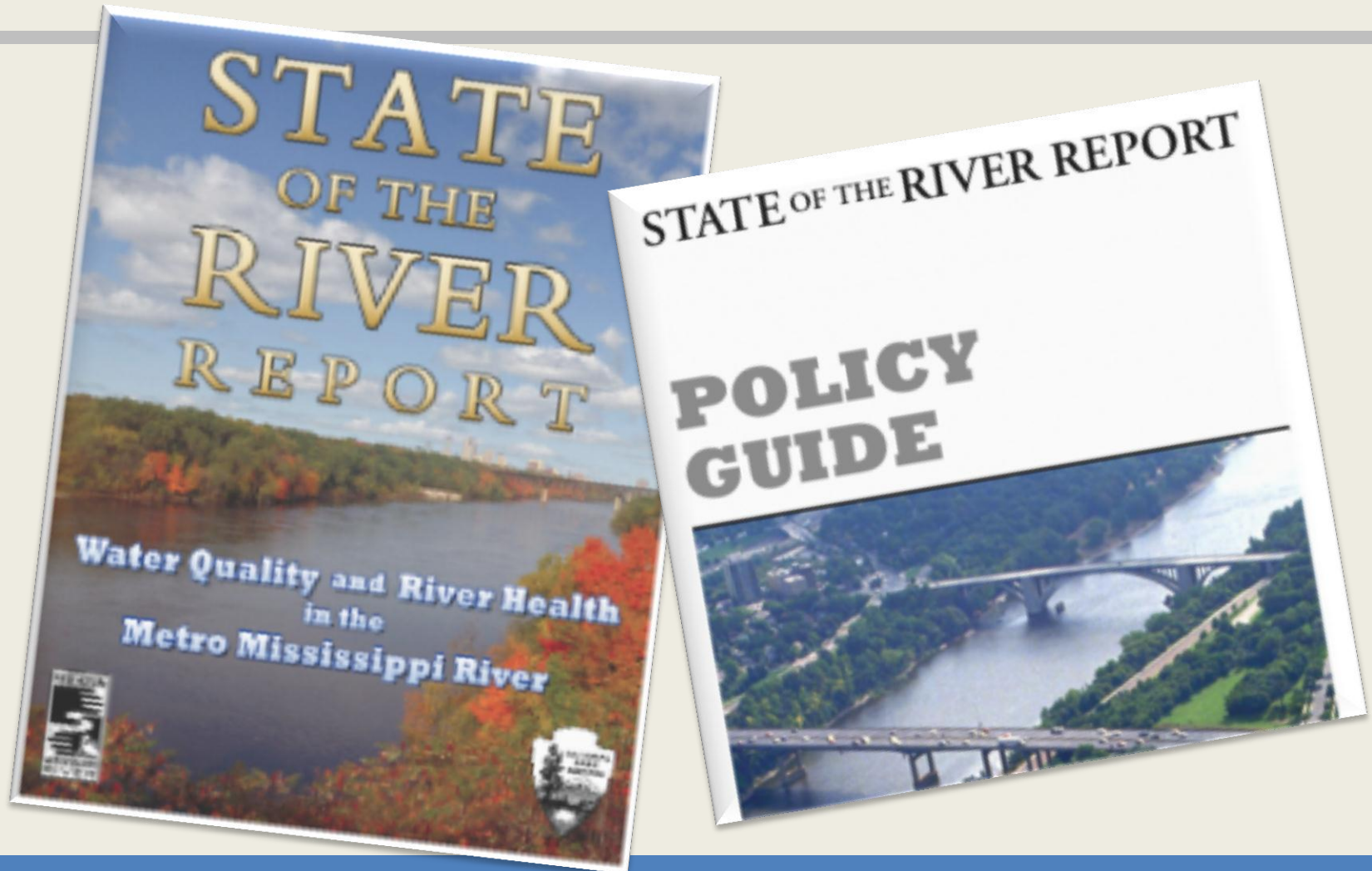
***Our Mission:
Protect and improve the environment and enhance public health.***



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

May 17, 2013

State of the River: Policy guide



1. Control spread of Asian carp

- ❑ Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center
- ❑ Targeted management of locks and dams



2. Comprehensive fish survey

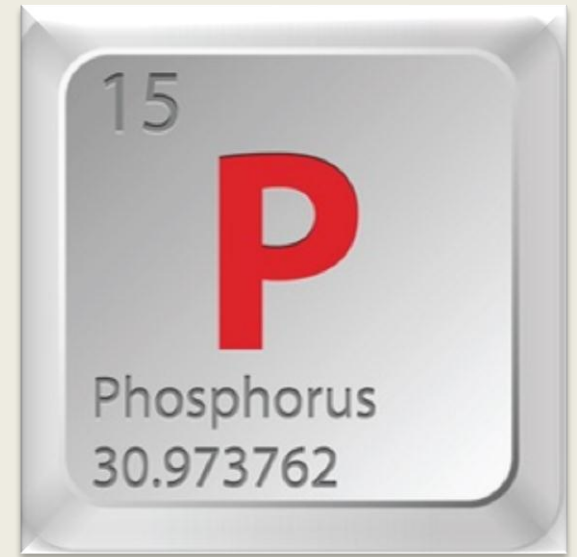
- ❑ Intensive watershed monitoring
- ❑ NEW in 2013
 - Intensive large river monitoring
 - Biological health of fish



3. Standards for nutrients in rivers

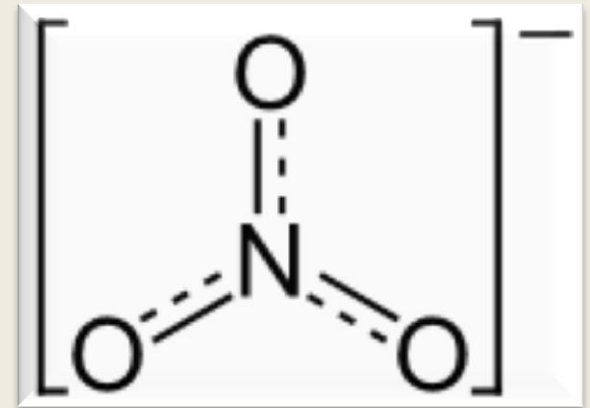
☐ Phosphorus (eutrophication)

- Summer 2013: rule language and SONAR
- Winter 2013/14: public hearings
- Mid/late 2014: rule adoption



3. Standards for nutrients in rivers

- ❑ Nitrate (aquatic life toxicity)
 - Early 2013: EPA completing toxicity tests
 - Late summer 2013: EPA results expected
 - 2015: standard adoption (estimated)



4. Triclosan phase-out

- ❑ Phased out of state purchasing contract
- ❑ 2013 Session: bill authored, but did not pass



5. Coal tar sealant ban

❑ Progress in Minnesota

- 28 cities have banned use
- 71 contractors have pledged not to use
- Most major retailers no longer sell coal tar sealants

❑ 2013 Legislative action



6. Pharmaceutical management

❑ Current system

- 130 law enforcement agencies
- 5 waste-to-energy facilities approved for disposal
- MPCA tracks new sites and annual reporting

❑ Additional work is needed

- DEA promulgating rules
- State product stewardship legislation



7. Ag pollution control system

- ❑ One watershed – One plan
 - Strengthen watershed restoration and protection strategy (WRAPS) work
 - Agriculture is a significant contributor to water quality impairments and needs to be part of the solution
 - Legislative Action in 2013 - funding
- ❑ Ag Water Quality Certification Program -
Legislative Action in 2013 – policy & funding



Watershed Assessment and Restoration Strategies – Principles

- ❑ Assess water quality in MN watersheds, systematically, on a ten-year cycle
- ❑ Meet or exceed federal surface water requirements
- ❑ Use research, data, and analysis to better direct continuous implementation



Watershed Assessment and Restoration Strategies – Principles

- ❑ Accelerate on-the-ground practices and capital improvement projects
- ❑ Integrate Water Quality into comprehensive multi-benefit water management approaches
- ❑ Refine targeting
- ❑ Empower informed, engaged, & committed citizens & communities



Agricultural Water Quality Certification

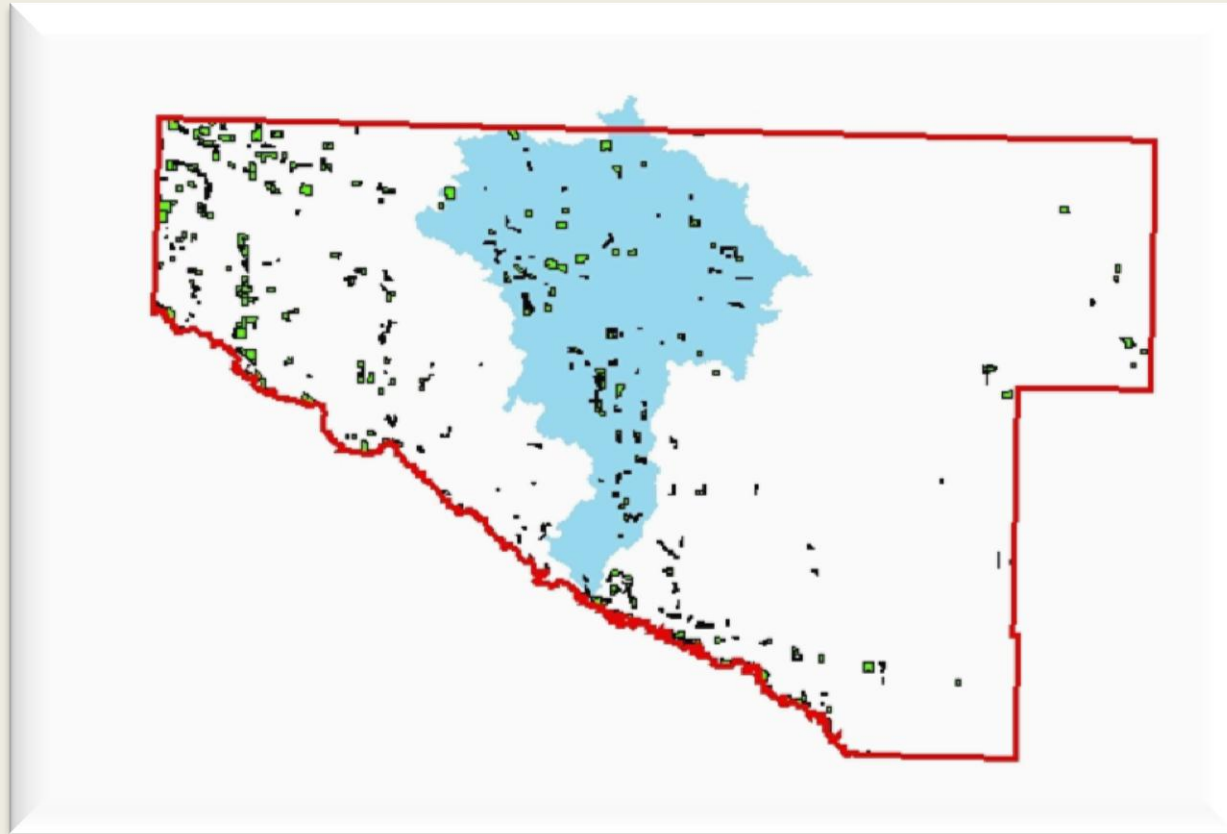
- ❑ MDA is lead agency, but MPCA is an active participant in the discussion
- ❑ Potential to move forward on agricultural non-point source pollution
- ❑ Will voluntary action be enough?



Hawk and Beaver Creek Watersheds



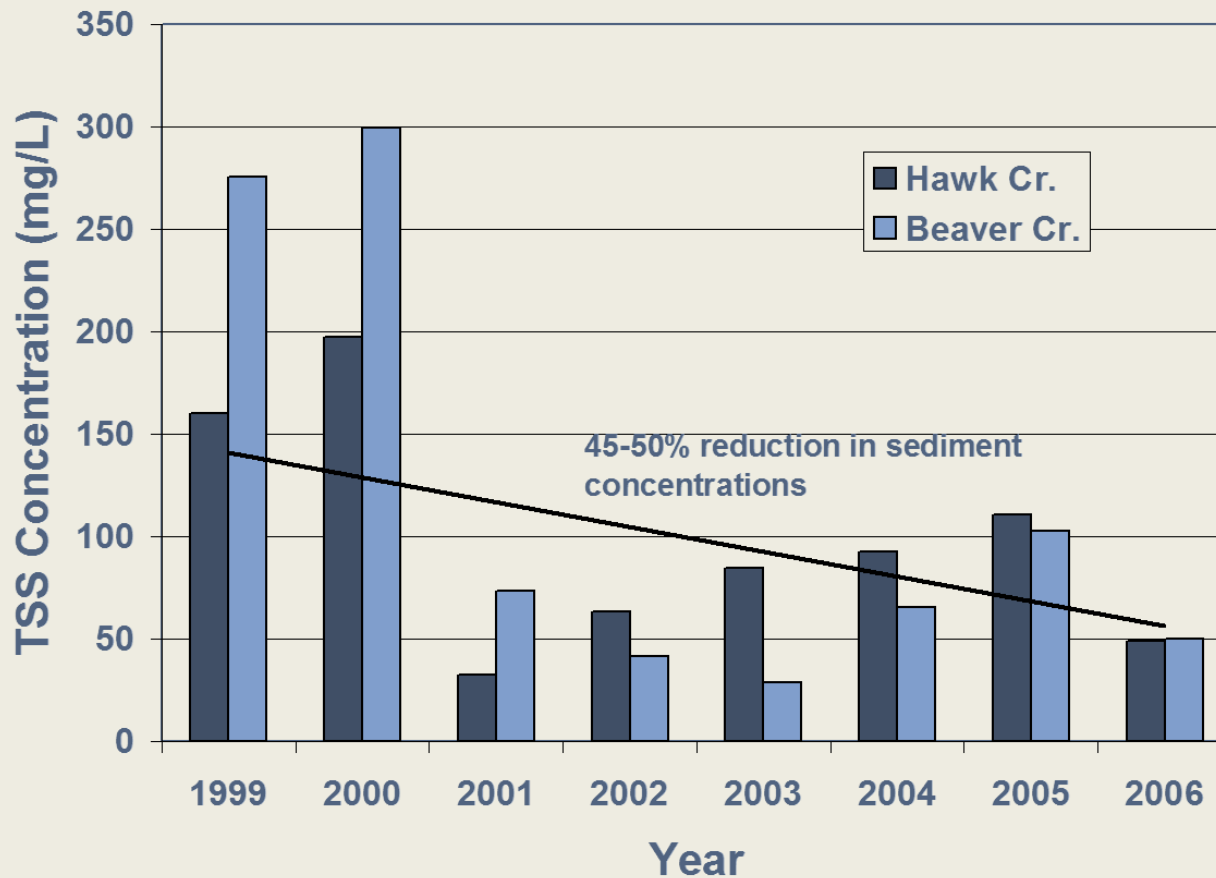
Conservation Easements in Renville County and Beaver Creek Watershed



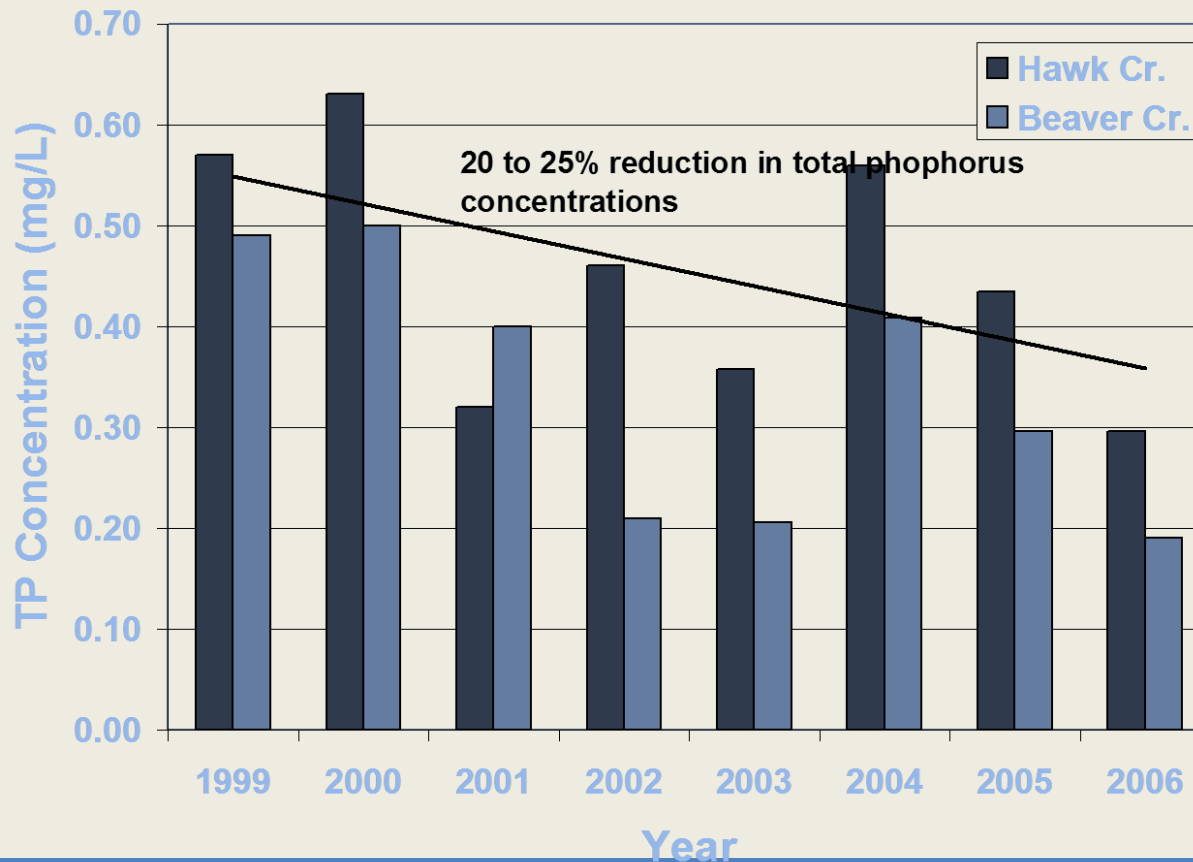
Riparian Buffers/Easements



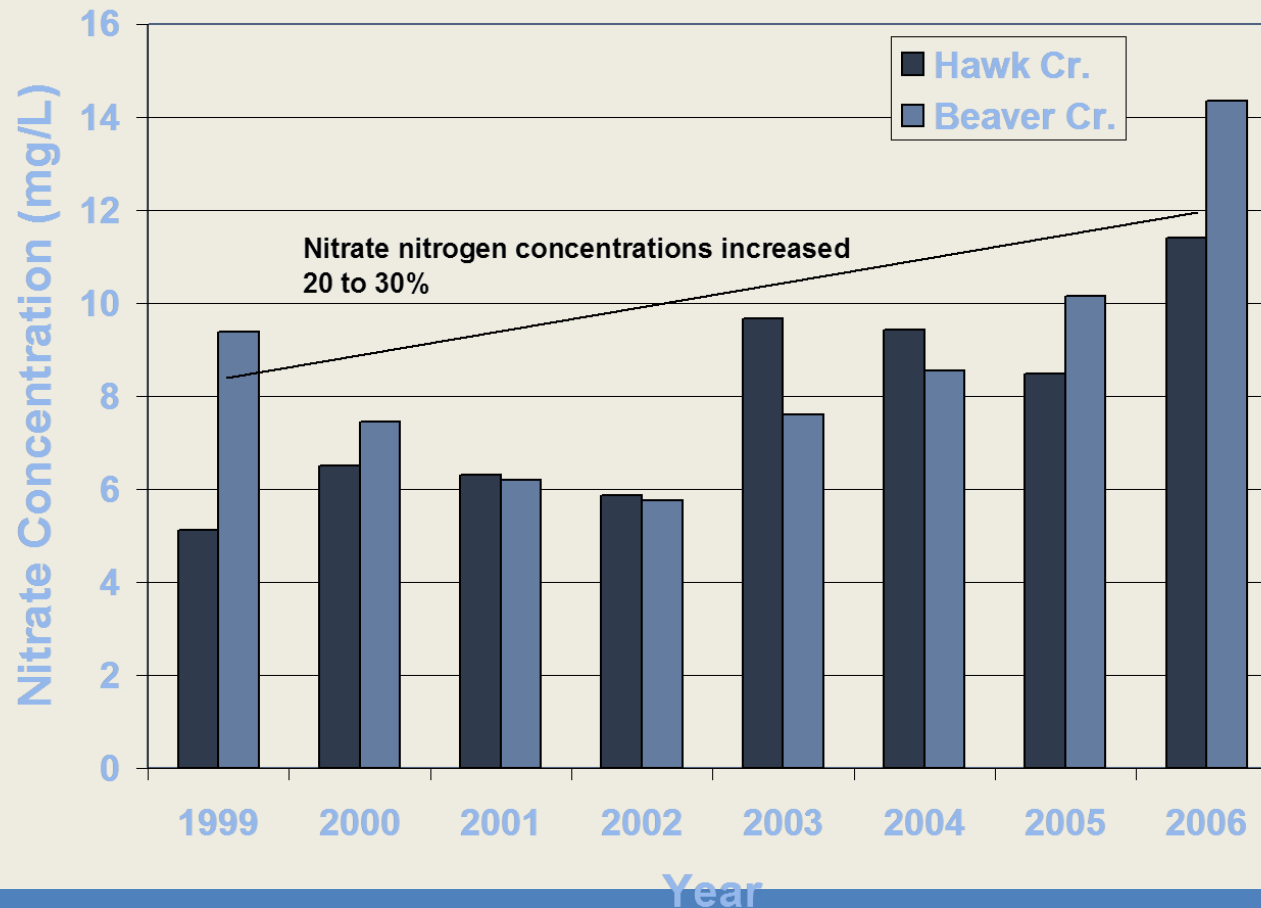
Reductions in TSS Concentrations



Total Phosphorus Concentrations



Nitrate Concentrations



8. Farm bill conservation investments

- ❑ MPCA shares a concern about loss of conservation dollars in the Farm Bill
- ❑ Traditionally, Minnesota is considered a national leader in farm conservation practices (state funding to match federal dollars)
 - Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM)
 - Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
 - Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)



9. Clean water investments



10. Stormwater runoff standard

State stormwater management general permits

- ❑ Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)
 - Permit reissuance
 - MPCA Citizens' Board: May 2013

- ❑ Construction Stormwater Permit (CSW)
 - Permit reissuance
 - MPCA Citizens' Board: June 2013

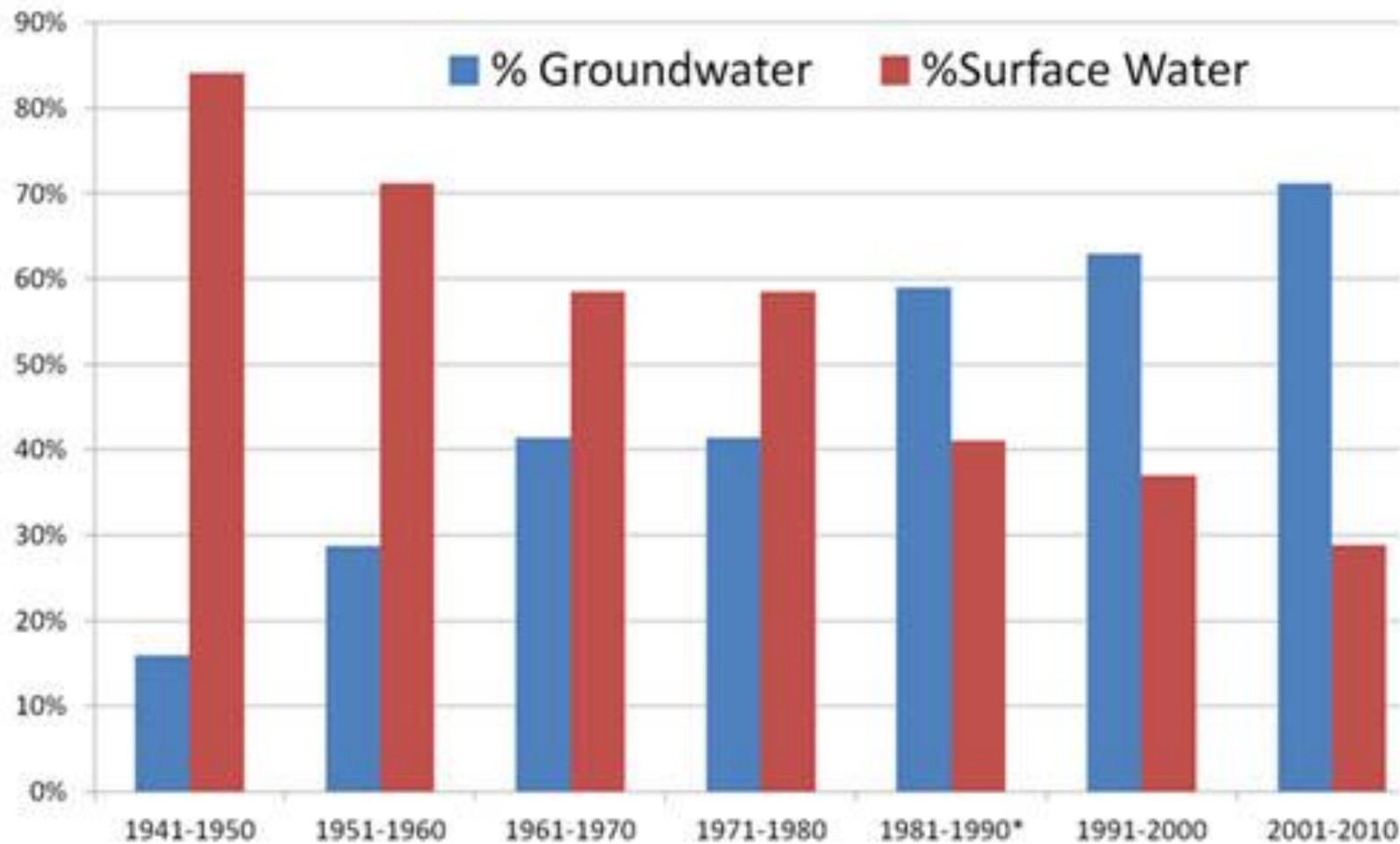


Other items

- ❑ Bacteria TMDL (St. Cloud to Minneapolis)
- ❑ Groundwater/Surface water rebalance



Municipal Water Use in Seven-County Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, Minnesota



Major Watersheds

